

**Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, May 23, 1842,  
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by  
John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, May 23, 1842.

My dear sir, I received in due course of mail your esteemed favour of the 3rd instant. the answer has been delayed from a severe attack of chills and fever which I was seised with whilst my friends VanBuren and Paulding were with me. They have left in fine health and spirits, pleased with the reception they met with by the people of all denominations in politics. The calumny which Bell and Foster in their stump speaches heaped upon Mr. VanBuren has recoiled upon them with great force since the people saw him instead of a dwarf dutchman, a little dandy who you might lift in a bandbox, the people found him a plain man of middle size, plain and affable. Bell and Foster may now be said to be in dry dock, examined and condemned as unfit for repairs. Their political sun has set as I believe forever and wiggery is done in Tennessee.

The present Congress has disgraced itself—nothing could display its corruption more than the appropriation of &dollar;52,000, for Books for themselves, 1 and I trust the people for this vile act of corruption will leave all who have voted for it at home, there to read their illgotten Books, and repent for their the violation of the constitution and their corruption in so basely obtaining them.

1 See the preceding letter, Blair to Jackson.

We rejoice at the anticipated pleasure of seeing Miss Betsy, and your son James at the Hermitage where you may rest assured they will receive a hearty welcome from all its

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inmates. Then shall Miss Betsy make choice of the filly to be called Miss Emuckfa. Under their late superintendant, my faithful charly, they are doing well and beginning to grow finely. I hope I shall get my favorite a medium size, tho my old groom treated her badly thro the winter and I may add ever since they were weaned. she is of a large strain and I hope may arrive at good size—the three year old is built like iron works, finely formed and all her brothers and sisters large and active, and altho full bred, I like the crosses of the two year old better.

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I rejoice at the result of the elections in virginia. I hope to live to see the day when Archer and Rives may be instructed out of their seats in the senate, that they have so much dishonored, by their late change and associations, and when a majority may exist in the senate that will remunerate you for the outrageous act of repudiating the contract for printing. that act lead on by clay plainly shew that the party are governed by no principle. I never had any confidence in the purity of Archer, he is a man of great vanity and small caliber of talents. such men are easily lead away from the paths of rectitude by flattery. The fourth day of march next, will be the funeral of whiggery.

The people of Rhode Island will triumph as they ought in Establishing their republican constitution and that state will hoist the republic banner and democracy will triumph there. 2 Surely it cannot be that the U. States will aid the aristocracy of Rhode Island to continue the charter of charles the 2nd when bound to gurantee a Republican form of Government to every state in the Union. If the President should be weak enough to order a regular force to sustain the charter against the peoples constitution a hundred thousand of the sovereign people would fly to the rescue to sustain the peoples constitution, as it would be an act by the Executive, hostile to the principles upon which our republican government is based. The people are the sovereign power and agreeable to our system they have the right to alter and amend their system of Government when a majority wills it, as a majority have a right to rule.

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2 Alluding to the conflict called the Dorr War.

I hope you found the mortgages and other papers all regular. Should you wish any alteration, as my life is precarious, I hope you will suggest it, and the change and addition shall be promptly made.

I have just seen Berriens report 3 on the case of the fine imposed by judge Hall—he may be applauded for his party zeal, but I am sure there is but few that will give him credit for his candor.

3 Report, Apr. 22, 1842, by Senator John M. Berrien of Georgia (formerly Jackson's Attorney General), making no recommendation of reimbursement. Senate Docs. , no. 257, 27 Cong., 2 sess.

My whole houshold, Unite with me in kind salutation . . . .